

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for gleaning file attributes independently of file format, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a ~~non-application-specific~~ non-application-specific file attribute manager receiving a plurality of files in a plurality of formats;
 - the file attribute manager scanning the plurality of received files in the plurality of formats;
 - the file attribute manager gleaning file attributes from each of the plurality of scanned files in the plurality of formats;
 - the file attribute manager storing the ~~gleaned~~ gleaned file attributes gleaned from each of the plurality of scanned files as a plurality of records in a database;
 - the file attribute manager indexing specific file attributes gleaned from ~~[[a]] specific file files according to contents of the specific files~~, the specific file attributes being stored as ~~one~~ ones of the plurality of records in the database, ~~the indexing proceeding according to contents of the specific file~~;
 - examining one of the plurality of files;
 - retrieving from the plurality of records in the database at least one record associated with the examined one of the plurality of files;
 - analyzing the gleaned file attributes gleaned from the examined one of the plurality of files, the gleaned file attributes having been retrieved from the at least one record associated with the ~~file~~ examined one of the plurality of files; and
 - determining a status of the examined one of the plurality of files responsive to analyzing the gleaned file attributes.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:
 - ~~the specific types of~~ file attributes are gleaned from ~~the a~~ specific file ~~are as~~ a function of a protocol according to which the specific file is transmitted.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein:
the specific types of file attributes are gleaned from ~~the a~~ specific file as a function of ~~the a~~ format of the specific file.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the file attribute manager indexing specific file attributes ~~proceeds~~ indexes according to a secure hash of the contents of ~~the each~~ specific file.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the file attribute manager indexing specific file attributes ~~proceeds~~ indexes according to a cyclical redundancy check of the contents of ~~the each~~ specific file.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
the file attribute manager receiving a plurality of copies of a selected file of the plurality of files; and
the file attribute manager storing each of the plurality of copies as a separate record in the plurality of records, each separate record indexed according to the contents of the selected file of the plurality of files, such that the each separate record can be accessed by a single index.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
deleting records from the database after the records have been stored for a specific period of time.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~non-application-specific non-application-specific~~ file attribute manager is incorporated into one selected from the group consisting of:
a firewall;
an intrusion detection system;
an intrusion detection system application proxy;
a router;
a switch;

a standalone proxy;
 a server;
 a gateway;
 an anti-virus detection system; and
 a client.

9. (Currently amended) A ~~computer-readable~~ computer-readable medium containing a computer program product for gleaning file attributes independently of file format, the computer program product comprising program code for:

- receiving a plurality of files in a plurality of formats;
- scanning the plurality of received files in the plurality of formats;
- gleaning file attributes from each of the plurality of scanned files in the plurality of formats;
- storing the ~~gleaned~~ file attributes gleaned from each of the plurality of scanned files as a plurality of records in a database;
- indexing specific file attributes gleaned from ~~[[a]] specific file~~ files according to contents of the specific files, the specific file attributes being stored as ~~one ones~~ of the plurality of records in the database, ~~the indexing proceeding according to contents of the specific file~~;
- examining one of the plurality of files;
- retrieving from the plurality of records in the database at least one record associated with the one of the examined plurality of files;
- analyzing the gleaned file attributes gleaned from the examined one of the plurality of files, the gleaned file attributes having been retrieved from the at least one record associated with the ~~file~~ examined one of the plurality of files; and
- determining a status of the examined one of the plurality of files responsive to analyzing the gleaned file attributes.

10. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:
program code for gleaning specific types of file attributes from ~~the~~ a specific file as a function of a protocol according to which the specific file is transmitted.
11. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:
program code for gleaning specific types of file attributes from ~~the~~ a specific file as a function of ~~the~~ a format of the specific file.
12. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 wherein the program code for indexing file attributes ~~proceeds~~ indexes according to a secure hash of the contents of ~~the~~ each specific file.
13. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 9 wherein the program code for indexing file attributes ~~proceeds~~ indexes according to a cyclical redundancy check of the contents of ~~the~~ each specific file.
14. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:
program code for receiving a plurality of copies of a selected file of the plurality of files; and
program code for storing each of the plurality of copies as a separate record in the plurality of records, each separate record indexed according to the contents of the selected file of the plurality of files, such that the each separate record can be accessed by a single index.
15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 9 further comprising:
program code for deleting records from the database after the records have been stored for a specific period of time.

16. (Currently amended) A computer system for gleaning file attributes independently of file format, the computer system comprising:
 - a reception module, configured to receive a plurality of files in a plurality of formats;
 - a scanning module, configured to scan the plurality of received files in the plurality of formats, the scanning module communicatively coupled to the reception module;
 - a gleaning module, configured to glean file attributes from each of the plurality of scanned files in the plurality of formats, the gleaning module communicatively coupled to the scanning module;
 - a storage module, configured to store gleaned file attributes gleaned from each of the plurality of scanned files as a plurality of records in a database, the storage module communicatively coupled to the gleaning module;
 - an indexing module, configured to index specific file attributes gleaned from [[a]] specific file files according to contents of the specific files, the specific file attributes being stored as one ones of the plurality of records in the database, ~~the indexing proceeding according to contents of the specific file,~~ the indexing module communicatively coupled to the storage module;
 - an examining module, configured to examine one of the plurality of files;
 - a retrieval module, configured to retrieve from the plurality of records in the database at least one record associated with the examined one of the plurality of files, the retrieval module communicatively coupled to the examining module and the storage module;
 - an analysis module, configured to analyze the gleaned file attributes gleaned from the examined one of the plurality of files, the gleaned file attributes having been retrieved from the at least one record associated with the file examined one of the plurality of files, the analysis module communicatively coupled to the retrieval module; and
 - a status module, configured to determining a status of the examined one of the plurality of files responsive to analyzing the gleaned file attributes, the status module communicatively coupled to the analysis module.

17. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:
the gleaning module is further configured to glean specific types of file
attributes from a specific file ~~which are~~ as a function of a protocol
according to which the specific file is transmitted.
18. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:
the gleaning module is further configured to glean specific types of file
attributes from a specific file ~~which are~~ as a function of ~~the~~ a format of
the specific file.
19. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein the indexing
module is further configured to index specific file attributes ~~proceeds~~ according to a secure
hash of the contents of ~~the~~ each specific file.
20. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein the indexing
module is further configured to index specific file attributes ~~proceeds~~ according to a
cyclical redundancy check of the contents of ~~the~~ each specific file.
21. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 16 wherein:
the reception module is further configured to receive a plurality of copies of a
selected file of the plurality of files; and
the storage module is further configured to store each of the plurality of copies
as a separate record in the plurality of records, each separate record
indexed according to the contents of the selected file of the plurality of
files, such that the each separate record can be accessed by a single
index.
22. (Cancelled).
23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
responsive to determining the status of the examined one of the plurality of files
to be malicious, blocking the examined one of the plurality of files.
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
responsive to determining the status of the examined one of the plurality of files
to be legitimate, not blocking the examined one of the plurality of files.
26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
applying at least one rule specifying how to use the gleaned file attributes to
process the examined one of the plurality of files.
27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 further comprising:
selecting the at least one rule from a plurality of rules to apply specifying how
to use the gleaned file attributes to process the examined one of the
plurality of files.
28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of files are received
from a network connection.